

**LAVENDON PARISH COUNCIL**

 Clerk

The Pavilion

 63a High Street

 Lavendon

MK46 4HA

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Minutes of the Monthly meeting of **Lavendon Parish Council** held at The Pavilion on **Monday 8th January 2024**

**Present**: -

Cllr Alex Mountcastle

Cllr Steve Axtell

Cllr Michelle Ramsden

Cllr Louise MacKenzie -Chair

Cllr Martino Ginepro

Cllr Ann Kelcey

Ward Cllr Keith Mclean

Pam Ayres - Clerk

**Welcome by the Chair –** The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting.

Meeting commenced at 19:35

1. **To accept apologies for Absence: -**

Apologies were received from: - Cllr Gary Manning, Cllr Mick Rutherford, Ward Cllr Peter Geary, Ward Cllr Debbie Whitworth and PSCO Arlene Ormston.

**2. Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda**

No declarations of interest were received.

**3. To approve, and Chair to sign as a correct record, the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11th December 2023**

 **Resolved**: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th December 2023 be approved. The minutes were duly signed by the Chair.

 **4. Public Questions**

 There were no members of the public present.

**5. To receive PCSO’s Report**

 PCSO Arlene Ormston sent the following report.

***Crime Report Incidents from 11/12/2023 – 08/01/2024***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Assault without injury | December 2023 |
|  |  |

***Other Incidents not crime related in Lavendon***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *None* |  |
|  |  |

***Other Incidents in surrounding villages***

|  |
| --- |
| Theft of tyres from vehicles |
|  |
|  |

 **6 Ward Councillors Report**

 Ward Cllr McLean’s report included the following items: -

**6.1 MKCC Draft Budget Proposals for 2024/25**

MKCC are proposing to set a budget of 4.99% (Increasing Council Tax by 2.99% plus a 2% Adult Social Care Precept). A final decision is to be made in February.

 **6.2 Olney Ward Councillor Grants 2023-24**

Applications are now open for the Ward Councillor Grants 2023-24. The closing date for applications for grant funding is by **Friday 8th February 2024.**

 **6.3 MK Connect**

A delegated decision on funding MK Connect is due on 23 January.

**6.4 Willen Roadworks**

Work is due to start on 14th February and is expected to continue until March 2025. The road will remain open whilst the roadworks are being carried out. It is likely that there will be an increase in traffic flow as it’s the main diversion route for the closure of the A509 near Newport Pagnell.

**6.5** **Presentation on MK New City Plan**

A meeting is due to take place at the Olney Centre in February for parish and town councils on the MKCC 2050 development plans.

**6.6** **Flooding**

Ward Cllr McLean stated that he was pleased that there had been no flooding issues in Lavendon and the drains along Olney Road appear to be working well. Cllr Axtell stated that there is a problem with one of the drains along Castle Road which has been reported to MKCC.

**7. Finance**

**7.1 To receive the Clerk’s financial report for the period 1st – 31st December 2023**

**Resolved:** That the schedule of receipts and payments made during the period 1st - 31st December 2023 as circulated, be approved.

**7.2** **To appoint accounts scrutineer**

 **Resolved:** ThatCllr Kelcey be appointed as accounts scrutineer.

**7.3** **Purchases for approval**

**7.3.1** **Damp proofing the Old School toilets**

The Clerk provided details of a quote that had been obtained in respect of damp proofing work to be carried out at the Old School. A discussion took place, and it was agreed to accept the quote on the basis that given the amount and type of work involved, it represented good value for money.

**7.3.2 War Memorial**

The Clerk provided details of a quote obtained for the repair of the concrete post surrounding the War Memorial. It was agreed to accept the quote and for the work to go ahead.

**Resolved**: To accept the quote for the damp proofing at the Old School and the repair to War Memorial. The Clerk to arrange for the works to go ahead.

**7.4** **Budget 2024/25 & Precept**

The amended draft budget proposals for 2024/25 circulated prior to the meeting were discussed in detail. The budget proposals undertake to provide the financial support necessary to run public services, including the cemetery, allotment, dog & litter bins, maintenance of the playing field and other local amenities. It also makes some provision for the repair and upgrade of community assets. In considering the 2024/2025 budget, consideration has also been given to the economic situation and current inflation levels, as a measure of price rises. Taking all the factors into account, it was agreed to approve the draft budget proposals (As amended) for 2024/25.

**Resolved:** That the budget proposals (As amended) for 2024/25 be approved.

**7.4.1 2024/25 Precept**

In determining the 2024/25 budget, consideration was given to the level of Precept to be applied. It was acknowledged that the current economic climate continues to put pressure on the Parish Council’s budget in terms of inflation and increases in the cost of providing local services etc. Taking these and other factors into account, it was agreed to an increase in the precept from £40,697 to £42,720 (an increase of £2,023), which equates to an increase of **£1.23 per year** on a Band D property, a modest rise of 2%. This takes the precept on a Band D property from £61.35 to £62.58 per year.

**Resolved**: That the Precept of £40,697 for 2023/24 be increased by 2% to 42,720 for 2024/25

**7.4.2 Cemetery fees**

The Clerk reported that following last month’s meeting, a review had been undertaken of the Cemetery fees in comparison to those of other local Parish cemeteries. This showed that the current fees were considerably lower in comparison and did not cover the costs of maintaining the cemetery. A discussion took place, and it was unanimously agreed to increase the fees for burials to £500 for a double plot, £425 for a single plot and ashes plots to £200. The first such rise in almost 12 years. It was further agreed to introduce a reduced fee of £100 for the burial of children under 12.

**Resolved:** That the cemetery fees be increased with effect from 1st February 2024 to reflect the rising cost of maintaining the cemetery.

**7.4.3 Allotment Fees**

It was agreed not to increase the allotment fees but to carry out a further review in September 2024.

**Resolved**: To review the Allotment fees in September 2024.

**7.5** **Barclays – additional signatures**

The Clerk reported that the Mandate Change Form had now been signed by both Cllr MacKenzie and Cllr Mountcastle and will be submitted once the relevant online ID checks have been completed.

**8. To receive Clerk’s Report**

**8.1 Transfer of land Harrold Road -Update**

MKCC have agreed that the Parish Council are no longer required to sign the section 106 Agreement. Instead, there will be a condition on the Landowners in the section 106 Agreement that no development can commence until the Community Land is transferred to the Parish Council. This gives The Parish Council time to agree the terms of the Transfer and ensure vacant possession is obtained.

**8.2**. **Save the date – Online workshop**

MKCC are to commission a Review of Historic Areas of Attractive Landscape project which is being carried out by Land Use Consultants. This will allow MKCC to consider designating new or refined Areas of Attractive Landscape (AALs) within the Landscape Character Types (LCTs) in the New City Plan.

As part of this study, Land Use Consultants are looking to arrange an online workshop to collect the views of key stakeholders around the aspects people value about MK’s local landscapes. This workshop is provisionally set for the **evening of** **Thursday 29th February 2024**.

**8.3 Government Consultation on Street Vote Development Orders**
The government is to consult on the detailed operation of the street votes development order system in England. An alternative to traditional forms of planning permission, street votes give residents of a street the ability to propose development on their street and, subject to the proposal meeting certain requirements, vote on whether the development should be given planning permission.The deadline for comments is by **2nd February 2024.**

**AP1:** Comments on the Street Vote Development Orders to be submitted to the Clerk by the deadline date.

**8.4 Broadband improvements throughout the village.**
The Clerk reported that she’d received an email from a resident suggesting that the Parish Council work with BT Openreach to improve the Network within the village. The resident stated that while providers offer “Fibre” this is not full Fibre. The matter was discussed, and it was agreed that this was a commercial matter between the provider and the customer concerned and not a matter for the Parish Council.

**AP2:** The Clerk to notify the resident accordingly.

**9. Specific Agenda items**

**9.1 Preschool Rental Agreement**

The Clerk stated that she’d received an email from Mr. Griffith’s the Director of the Preschool, advising that it’s looking highly unlikely that the Preschool will be returning to five days a week until after the February half term. A discussion took place, and it was agreed that the Parish Council would continue to support the Preschool by accepting reduced rental payments until such time as the Preschool returns to opening 5 days a week.

**Resolved:** That the Parish Council continues to support the Preschool by accepting reduced rental payments until such times as the Preschool is open 5 days a week. Clerk to write to the Preschool advising of the Parish Council’s decision and request details of the previous 24 months hours of use and a forecast for the next 6 months.

**9.2 New process for requesting double yellow lines**

From 1st January 2024 MKCC have introduced a new process for requesting double yellow lines.

A request for double yellow lines must be submitted by the parish council with a supporting letter from at least one of the ward councillors for the area in the application. Before submitting the application, the Parish Council must gauge the level of local support for a Traffic Regulation Order. On receipt of the completed application form a formal consultation period will be carried out by MKCC. This will involve a Public Notice in the local paper and all details of any proposals including any plans to be available to view on the Council's consultation page on the website. There is a minimum length of 21 days for consultation periods on a proposed Traffic Regulation Order. **Resolved:** Noted

**9.3** **Draft habitat creation plan for land on the east side of Harrold Road**

The details of a draft habitat creation plan put forward by Cllr Ginepro were discussed and all agreed that this was a good starting point and something that could be built on.

**Resolved:** Cllrs to provide feedback and submit any ideas of their own to Cllr Ginepro.

**9.4 Flood response plan /team**

Cllr Mountcastle floated the idea of setting up a team of volunteers that could respond to any major flooding issues in the village. The idea being that if called upon, the team becomes a local co-ordination point for the Emergency Services and the Team would assist residents to ensure their safety and wellbeing. A discussion took place, and all agreed that this was a good idea in principle.

**Resolved:** Thatthe Clerk to contact the Fire Brigade for advice and information on drafting an

emergency flood plan.

**10. Planning Applications**

**New applications**

**10.1** Application no: 23/02749/HOU -The conversion of an existing single garage to a garden room and storage area, including new bi-fold doors, window, and associated alterations At: 7 Tinick Crescent**. No objections**

**10.2** **Planning applications - update**

Application no: 23/02499/HOU **-** The erection of a single storey side extension At: 5 Hulse Close. **Permitted**

**11. Parish related matters**

**11.1** **Community Heartbeat – Defibrillator Awareness Training**

Cllr Kelcey stated that the Village Hall had agreed to host the event which has been provisionally booked for 17th February. Once the date and time have been confirmed, the event will be advertised on the Parish Council website and on the Lavendon Facebook Noticeboard.

**11.2 Cemetery extension**

Cllr Ginepro stated that he has received and is currently reviewing a draft proposal for a burial layout plan which will provide for an additional 108 burial plots.

**12.** **Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as **Monday 12th February 2024** at 19:30 to be held at the Pavilion.

The meeting closed at 21:40

Minutes agreed …………………………………………………………

Date ……………………………………………………………